

Appl. No. 09/595,167
 Supplemental Armdt. dated December 10, 2004
 Preliminary Amendment

PATENT

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

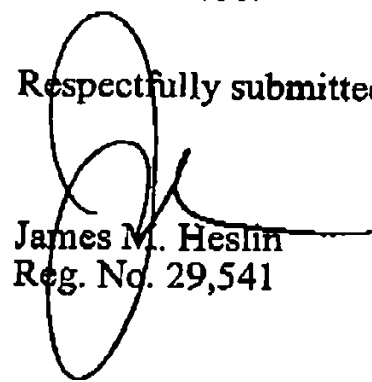
Per the telephone interview with Examiner Rodriguez on December 10, 2004, Applicants have cancelled claims 1-3 and 5-16. The Examiner indicated that the remaining method claims are allowable.

On October 14, 2004, the undersigned attorney and James Brugger, one of the inventors, held a personal interview with Examiner Rodriguez. Applicants discussed the amendment filed on September 13, 2004, and reiterated the arguments therein with particular reference to the Schulte et al. patent. The Examiner reiterated her position that claim 1 still read on Schulte et al.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 650-326-2400.

Respectfully submitted,


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